



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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One Columbia Announces Artist Emergency Fund

Funds provided by Knight Foundation to support Columbia-area artists

COLUMBIA, SC May 1, 2020 - One Columbia for Arts and Culture is privileged to announce an Artist Emergency Fund of \$100,000 to provide emergency relief for Columbia-area artists. The fund was developed out of a partnership among the Knight Foundation, Central Carolina Community Foundation and One Columbia to temper the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting emergency shutdowns. This fund will provide 40 emergency grants of \$2,500 each to support professional artists in the Columbia area.

By offering these funds, the partners are providing much-needed assistance for artists facing hardships caused by the loss of events, performances, and sales. The program serves the mission of the three partner organizations by supporting an ecosystem for professional artists to live, work and remain in and around Columbia, South Carolina. The funds provided by this program can be used to assist artists with any relevant professional needs including artist supplies and materials, rent or mortgage, health insurance, or another professional purpose.

One Columbia will begin accepting applications for a two-week period starting on May 8. The deadline for applications is midnight on Friday, May 22.

“We’re extremely grateful to the Knight Foundation for their long-held commitment to Columbia and its creative community,” says Lee Snelgrove, One Columbia Executive Director. “This Emergency Fund will provide some much-needed relief for artists that have seen significant impacts to their livelihoods over the past weeks. Artists have been a beacon of hope by sharing their art with all of us while we’re currently social distancing. This fund will offer some help to them to continue being creators of cultural connections, economic vitality and livability as Columbia moves ahead in a post-pandemic world.”

“The Knight Foundation is pleased to offer much-needed assistance to the artists of Columbia. They have been and will continue to be such an important part of the livability and vibrancy of the City,” says Lilly Weinberg, Knight Foundation Director of Community and National Initiatives. “Artists provide necessary connections among people and places, and it is vital that they be able to continue their work engaging the community through shared cultural expression.”

Eligibility information, application requirements and the online application form are accessible by visiting onecolumbiasc.com. One Columbia staff are offering assistance for those that may not have the ability or means to respond to the online form through phone submissions arranged upon appointment.

Artists with questions or to request assistance with submission can leave a voicemail at 803-254-5008 or email to info@onecolumbiasc.com.

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About One Columbia for Arts and Culture

One Columbia for Arts and Culture is a non-profit corporation that works to promote collaboration among citizens, the cultural community, and city government through celebrations of Columbia's arts and historic treasures. Its goal is to enhance the quality of life for our residents, attract tourist dollars to our city, and further build our vibrant community. In short, it serves as the promotional arm of the City for Columbia's cultural community. Visit the One Columbia website <http://onecolumbiasc.com> for a continuously updated master list of art and cultural activities occurring throughout the city.

About Central Carolina Community Foundation:

Central Carolina Community Foundation, the Midlands' center for philanthropy, is a nonprofit organization serving 11 counties in the Midlands by distributing grants and scholarships and linking the resources of donors, nonprofits and area leaders to communities in need. Major initiatives include the online giving challenge Midlands Gives, On the Table, Connected Communities grants, the One SC Fund, and annual scholarships. For more information about the Foundation, visit www.yourfoundation.org or call [803.254.5601](tel:803.254.5601).